

Cassia County

September 2020

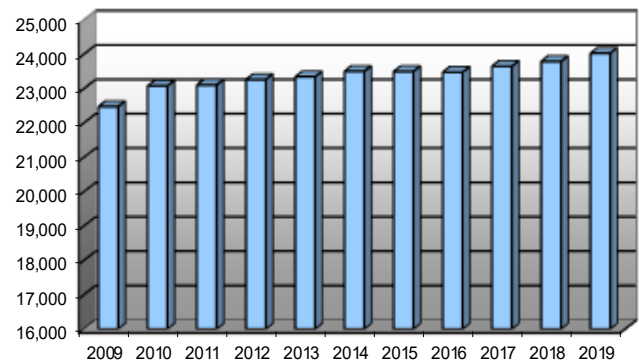
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Workforce Trends

Population

Cassia County's population grew 6.9% since 2009 with an average annualized growth rate of .7%. Its fastest growth was in 2008 at 2.6%. Population is estimated at 24,030 in 2019, an uptick of 1% from 2018. The county diversified beyond agriculture as national companies relocated and existing businesses survived the recession. Efforts to market Cassia and Minidoka counties together through a community partnership that spotlighted low land and labor costs were successful in landing new businesses. The area offers an array of natural resources and recreational opportunities. Burley, the largest city with a population of 10,582 is on the banks of the scenic Snake River. It is a short jaunt to the City of Rocks National Reserve for climbing and Pomerelle Mountain Resort for skiing. The outlook is for solid growth in this city that has expanded its waste water capacity and is sited on Interstate-84.

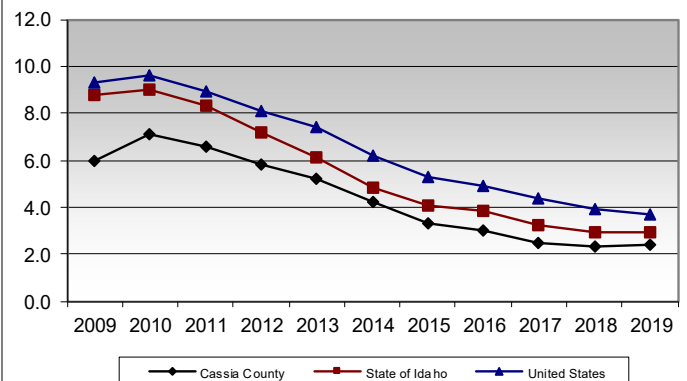
Population



Labor Force & Employment

Cassia County traditionally experienced higher unemployment than the rest of region due to seasonal industries. The closure of the J.R. Simplot potato processing plant in Heyburn in 2003 shot the unemployment rate up for a couple of years. Since then, RV maker Dutchmen Manufacturing opened and has been replaced by Watco, who maintains Eastern Idaho Railroad lines in Idaho with lofty plans of an intermodal facility. Mulholland Positioning Systems, which makes gait assistance devices for the disabled, moved its manufacturing from California. Pacific Ethanol started production in April 2008 with a temporary closure as the recession hit and fuel prices fluctuated. DOT Foods, a national food redistributor, opened its state-of-the-art warehouse in 2008, attracted by convenient access to I-84 and I-86. Packaging Specialties opened its shrink wrap and printing operation in 2008. Hy-Line North America, an egg hatching operation that ships chicks from its new plant in Burley and buys eggs locally, added diversity in 2009. High Desert Milk and Gem State Processing both built new plants in Burley and Heyburn, respective-

Unemployment Rates



ly. All these national companies pay competitive wages with benefits. Many of the food processing jobs require higher skill levels due to automation. McCain Foods is an example of innovation offering higher skilled jobs and higher wages after its \$200 million expansion with 180 new jobs. A \$37 million school bond passed allowing renovations and new schools. Fabri-kal, a plastic container manufacturer, opened its new plant towards the end of 2015, investing \$50 million and hiring 50 workers initially. DuPont USA built a Styrofoam brand insulation plant in Burley which opened in the 4th quarter 2017. With the new job growth, the unemployment rate fell to a record low in 2018. The area has experienced terrific labor force growth at 20% since 2009 and 3.7% since 2018. Those moving to the area are workers not retirees.

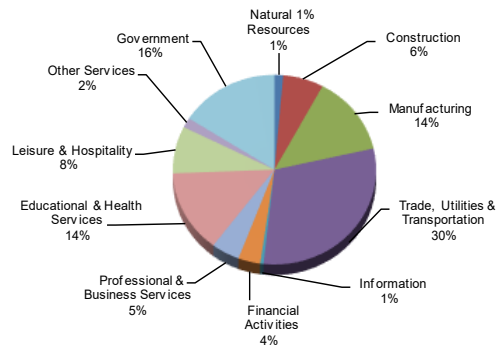
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	12,200	12,446
Total Employment	11,907	12,088
Unemployed	293	358
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.4	2.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	10,190	11,114	11,198	11,116	11,119	11,236	11,466	11,610	11,718	11,783	12,215
Unemployment	609	787	738	644	581	476	376	345	294	267	295
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.0	7.1	6.6	5.8	5.2	4.2	3.3	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.4
Employment	9,581	10,327	10,460	10,472	10,538	10,760	11,090	11,265	11,424	11,516	11,920

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Major Employers

Ag Express
Americold Logistics
Boise Paper Holdings
BRP Health Management Systems
Cassia Regional Medical Center
DOT Foods
High Desert Milk
McCain Foods
Parke View Rehab & Care Center
Walmart

Wages & Income

Per capita income in 2018 grew by almost 57% since 2009, ranking 7th highest among the 44 Idaho counties. It grew 5.7% from 2017, outpacing the state and nation at 4.3% and 4.9% respectively. Previous to the Great Recession, jobs had been in agriculture, food processing, retail or services. The dairy industry has brought some stability to Cassia County providing housing and wages for workers that milk thrice daily. Its feed and service-heavy supply chain has led to shifts in crops and business opportunity. Cassia is the leading county in the state for agricultural receipts—\$926.7 million, ranked 33rd nationally based on the 2017 Census of Ag. Cassia County's per capita income is 83 percent of the nation's and 103 percent of the state's per capita income.

Wages had traditionally been low in Cassia County until the influx of national companies. The region's average wage for all industry grew by 34.2% since 2009 with 2019 growth at 2.9%. Some fresh potato pack and frozen potato processors are struggling due to the COVID-19 plummet of demand by the food service industry. A high-technology warehouse built by Netherlands-based Newcold introducing state-of-the-art sub-cold storage to the area gained global press. The long-term outlook for the area is still strong.

South Central Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	\$10.60	\$19.29
Cashiers	\$8.96	\$10.99
Child, Family, & School Social Workers	\$17.77	\$24.47
Dental Assistants	\$12.60	\$15.34
Farmworkers, Farm & Ranch Animals	\$8.97	\$12.66
Food cooking machine operators	\$18.50	\$22.42
Graders & Sorters, Ag Products	\$8.43	\$10.82
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$18.94	\$25.05
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators (Forklift)	\$13.92	\$17.96
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$11.43	\$15.96
Light Truck Drivers	\$11.85	\$18.41
Medical Secretaries	\$12.52	\$16.28
Registered Nurses	\$23.14	\$31.54
Teachers, Elementary	\$33,645	\$52,710
Teachers, Secondary	\$36,831	\$48,703
Waiters & Waitresses	\$8.48	\$9.24

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	9,691	\$28,191	11,084	\$36,763	11,654	\$37,832
Agriculture	1,327	\$28,031	1,687	\$36,855	1,750	\$38,022
Mining	99	\$30,041	136	\$39,172	137	\$40,193
Construction	421	\$29,734	592	\$43,963	641	\$42,470
Manufacturing	1,171	\$35,166	1,220	\$48,156	1,349	\$49,071
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	2,487	\$27,333	2,904	\$39,595	3,011	\$40,732
Information	87	\$58,319	77	\$66,386	52	\$64,329
Financial Activities	271	\$31,393	331	\$50,840	348	\$53,375
Professional and Business Services	272	\$34,680	376	\$29,900	447	\$34,710
Educational and Health Services	1,262	\$25,601	1,328	\$33,139	1,397	\$34,267
Leisure and Hospitality	504	\$9,556	679	\$12,476	774	\$10,276
Other Services	135	\$18,899	182	\$25,199	166	\$26,875
Government	1,656	\$29,398	1,572	\$31,796	1,582	\$33,291

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cassia County	\$28,868	\$32,421	\$34,468	\$36,149	\$40,773	\$42,030	\$44,341	\$43,861	\$42,790	\$45,220
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis

This county is served by the office located at the address below:
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This publication is produced by the Idaho Department of Labor and is funded at least in part by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. Costs associated with this publication are available upon request. The Idaho Department of Labor is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for Idaho Relay Service.